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Black Belt Banks Promote Economic Inclusion Opening Ways into the Financial Mainstream

Thomasville, AL – Representatives from several Black Belt banks were panelists at an FDIC workshop to discuss “Promoting Economic Inclusion in a Recovering Economy”. The meeting was held at Bishop State, in Mobile. Each panel member discussed how their financial institution is currently providing assistance to community members in becoming more financially stable by knowing about and using bank services.

Mel Ann Sullivan, Community Development Officer for First United Security Bank, served as panelist to offer ideas and suggestions to those present. “We believe a banking relationship helps individuals and families be prepared for opportunities in life, like homeownership, small business, or education,” Sullivan said. “It is our social responsibility to provide resources and be aware of the credit needs in the areas we serve, so we want to help. We are providing financial literacy education, as well as products and services that work for all seasons of life.”

The panel presented, to an audience of their peers, how their institution is meeting the needs of those unbanked and under-banked by helping them access, build and sustain capital. Activities such as how to improve financial stability, encouraging mainstream financial institution access, and financial education activities were discussed.

Established in 1952, First United Security Bank serves it’s customers through its 19 offices in Brent, Butler, Calera, Centreville, Coffeerville, Columbiana, Fulton, Gilbertown, Grove Hill, Harpersville, Jackson, McCalla, Thomasville, Tuscaloosa and Woodstock. The bank holds more than \$675 million in assets, is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and is an Equal Housing Lender. First United Security Bank’s holding company is United Security

Bancshares, Inc. Its stock is publicly traded on NASDAQ under the symbol: USBI. For more information, visit the bank's website at: www.firstusbank.com. Blog address: <http://firstusbank-usbi.blogspot.com/>. Or write to: First United Security Bank, P.O. Box 249, Thomasville, AL 36784.